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Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Without immediate inflow of cash, the Organization will have to cease operations, Secretary-General warns in latest update on United Nations financial situation.

+ Secretary-General decides to send small group of United Nations officials to South Africa, to observe mass demonstrations organized early next week by African National Congress.

+ Participants in United Nations European Seminar on the Question of Palestine, concluding three-day session, express hope that new Israeli Government will make radical policy changes in favour of peace.

+ Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Iraq, prompted by reports of widespread, grave human rights violations in south Iraq, addresses urgent appeal to the Iraqi Foreign Minister.

+ Executive Chairman of Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament, back from Baghdad, says search of Agriculture Ministry was "full and absolute" success, though no relevant material on Iraq's proscribed weapons programme was found.

+ Security Council votes unanimously to extend mandate of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for another six-month period until January 31, 1993.

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Without an immediate inflow of cash, the Organization would have to cease operations, observed Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in a report dated 23 July on the financial situation of the United Nations.

Overall, he said, unpaid assessed contributions amounted to over $1.75 billion by mid-July, with only 52 of the 163 Member States having paid in full their dues to the 1992 regular budget. Unpaid assessed contributions totalled more than $900 million, while unpaid contributions to peace-keeping operations remained high - over $844 million. However, writes the Secretary-General,

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current projections suggest that in that area sufficient cash might be available to meet the requirements of these operations through mid-October.

The United States is listed as owing over $555 million in outstanding contributions to its U.N. regular budget, while the Russian Federation is listed to be owing over $277 million for the peace-keeping operations. The report, based on the data available as of 15 July, was issued to update the information previously provided to Member States on the financial situation of the United Nations.

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The Secretary-General has decided to send a small group of United Nations officials to South Africa, to be present during the mass demonstrations organized early next week by the African National Congress (ANC).

The Spokesman of the Secretary-General also told correspondents today that the dispatch of this group had been requested by Nelson Mandela, President of the ANC, and agreed to by the Government of South Africa. The modalities of the dispatch were discussed in detail with the authorities by Cyrus Vance, Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

The group, which will constitute an independent presence, will be working through the National Peace Committee, which is a non-partisan group stemming from the National Peace Accords.

The group is scheduled to leave for South Africa tomorrow and will remain there for approximately 15 days.

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Participants attending the Seventh United Nations European Seminar on the Question of Palestine, concluding their three-day session yesterday, expressed hope that the new Israeli Government would institute radical changes in its policies in favour of peace.

Seminar participants also adopted a set of conclusions and recommendations calling on the Israeli Government to declare its agreement with the principle of "land for peace", to comply with United Nations resolutions and to acknowledge the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

The Seminar also pointed to the need for an active United Nations role in order to ensure a successful outcome of the Middle East peace process. They were also of the opinion that a more active European contribution to the Middle East peace conference would be welcomed.

Before the closing, Giorgio Giacomelli, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, conveyed Secretary-General Boutros-Boutros Ghali's hope that the process launched in Madrid and sustained during bi-lateral and multi-lateral negotiations, would be reinvigorated. He also expressed hope

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that the lasting peace so long denied the peoples of the Middle East would become a reality.

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Reports of widespread and grave human rights violations in South Iraq prompted the Special Rapporteur designated by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to examine the Iraqi situation to address an urgent appeal yesterday to the Iraqi Foreign Minister.

Max van der Stoel, reacting to allegations of military attacks against civilian settlements, including the use of heavy artillery to bombard villages and hamlets indiscriminatly, expressed particular concern over the need to protect the rights to life and physical integrity. Appealing to the Iraqi authorities to put an end to what appears to be intentionally repressive policies, the Special Rapporteur called for an immediate end to the military attacks and for consultations with the local population in relation to the implementation by the Government of a water diversion and village amalgamization programme which directly affects them.

The Special Rapporteur was originally appointed by the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission in June 1991 in accordance with a March 1991 resolution adopted by the Commission. In a report submitted to the Commission in February, Mr. van der Stoel of the Netherlands had strongly recommended the sending of human rights monitors to Iraq.

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Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, Executive Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament, back in New York today from Baghdad, briefed the Security Council on the search of the Iraqi Agriculture Ministry building by the Special Commission's team of experts. Addressing the press later, he said he regarded the search as a full and complete success, though no material relating to Iraq's proscribed weapons programme had been found.

The agreement not to select personnel from the countries of the coalition involved in the war with Iraq last year had been a gesture on the Commission's part to accomodate Iraq's sensitivities. However, Mr. Ekeus said, the final selection of the team included outstandingly well qualified experts.

With reference to his talks with Mr. Tariq Aziz, Mr. Ekeus said that he had been given "a very impressive catalogue of reasons" why Iraq did not want to renew the Memorandum of Agreement covering humanitarian relief efforts in the country. But the Iraqis had not said yet they would refuse to renew the agreement.

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In a resolution adopted unanimously today, the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for another six-month period until January 31, 1993.

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By adopting the resolution 768 (1992), the Council reiterated its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries.

The text again called on all the parties to cooperate fully with the Force for the full implementation of its mandate and it asked the Secretary-General to continue his consultations with the Government of Lebanon and other parties directly concerned with the implementation of the present resolution.

In a statement by the President of the Council, Jose Luis Jesus of Cape Verde, Council members also asserted that "any State shall refrain from the threat or use of force against territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations".

In the statement, members also reiterated their support for the continued efforts of the Lebanese Government to consolidate peace, national unity and security in the country and commended it for its successful efforts to deploy units of its army in the south of the country in full coordination with UNIFIL. They also expressed concern over the continuing violence in southern Lebanon and the loss of civilian life, and urged all the parties to exercise restraint.

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